

trunks or logs. More rarely, the larvae develop under bark of Scots pine logs (H. Mendel, *pers. comm.*) I am unaware, however, of any British records relating to Norway spruce but this tree now outnumbers Scots pine in many areas as a planted species and no doubt its logs provide sub-cortical conditions similar to those provided by Scots pine. It seem likely that the elaterid larvae in this case were preying on the *Tetropium* larvae.

Norway spruce was part of the British flora before the last ice age. Its re-introduction for commercial reasons has so far found little favour from naturalists. Its potential, however, in supporting these and possibly other rare beetles makes its re-introduction to the British scene perhaps a little more acceptable.— JOHN A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

### **Scarce Merveille du Jour *Moma alpium* Osbeck (Lep: Noctuidae) re-found in Devon**

On 4 July 1998, the night of the joint BE&NHS/Devon Moth Group Field Meeting to Roborough Wood, near Great Torrington, DMG member Dr Adrian Henderson decided to run his lights in a spot near to the River Torridge about three miles from the Field Meeting, because of the multitude of traps that would be running at Roborough Wood. He settled on a location where mature oaks were part of the woodland and around 01.00hrs three *M. alpium* came to his lights; these were all males and in good condition.

The following night another member of DMG and myself visited the same location but in a different spot to the previous night; around 01.00hrs we had three *M. alpium* come to our lights and these again were males and in good condition. We had none come to sugar which had been applied to oak trees. A follow-up on 15 July 1998 to locate the species at a new site, again mature oak woodland was unfortunately rained off. Follow-ups will be conducted to other parts of the oak woodland in the area in future years.

The history of the species in Devon so far is: 1865 – three specimens noted as “taken” in Plymouth; 1878 – a reference is given to Wembury near Plymouth, Lee Moor near Shaugh (again near Plymouth) and Great Torrington; 1948 – near to Plymouth; 1956 – a specimen taken by P. N. Crow on Dawlish Warren on 10 June. This specimen is in the Lees collection at Exeter Museum. More recent records are one taken (a worn specimen) at Roborough Wood, near Great Torrington on 14 July 1983 by C.W.D. Gibson and one seen but not taken by Mary Louise Hartley at Kingscott, near Great Torrington on 25 June 1994.— ROY MCCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.

### **Larvae of *Chrysolina staphylaea* (L.) (Col.:Chrysomelidae) subject to repeated submersion in sea-water**

Stopping at the roadside on the north side of Loch Creran, Argyll (OS grid reference NM94) on 3.vii.1997 I noticed a small strip of salt-marsh by the side of the loch which reminded me of the site where I found adults, and later larvae, of *Chrysolina crassicornis* (Helliesin) at the edge of neighbouring Loch Etive some years ago.